

- (a) a binding buffer which contains a dehydrating reagent and
- (b) a solid phase which comprises a hydrophilic water-containing polymer matrix.

43. (Amended) Reagent kit as claimed in claim 42 additionally comprising:

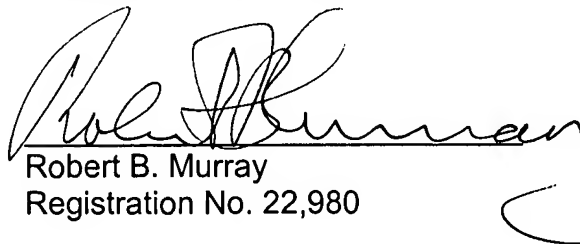
- (c) and elution buffer which can be used to detach nucleic acids bound to the surface and
- (d) a washing buffer which can be used to separate impurities bound to the

solid phase. **REMARKS**

Claims 1-43 and are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44 are amended to remove multiple dependency and claim 38 is canceled. No new matter is contained in the amendments.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert B. Murray
Registration No. 22,980

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810
RBM/ars